

REVISED AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE UTAH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 • 2:30 p.m. • Room 20 House Building

Approximate
Time Frame

2:30 1. Committee Business

Call to order

Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2013, meeting

2:35 2. Department of Workforce Services Assistance Programs

The Department of Workforce Services administers or determines eligibility for 19 public assistance programs. In cooperation with the department, a summary briefly describing each program, including the purpose, eligibility requirements, benefit amounts and restrictions, administrative contact information, and statutory citations for each program, has been prepared as a resource for legislators and others in understanding available assistance programs.

Peter Asplund, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services

2:50 3. Department of Workforce Services -- Structure, Mission, Duties, Goals, and Concerns

Several of the Department of Workforce Services administered public assistance programs are aimed at getting workers back to work or providing temporary assistance while they look for work. Representatives of the department will describe the department's organization, mission, duties, goals, and concerns.

Jon S. Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services

3:10 4. Unemployment Insurance Program

The Employment Security Act provides an employment benefit for an employee who is terminated through no fault of the employee (see Utah Code Title 35A, Chapter 4). The state benefit is for a maximum of 26 weeks and is funded by unemployment insurance contributions collected from employers. The amount of the contribution (tax) is imposed by formula on the payroll of each employer's workers (the average tax for 2011 was 0.85% of total wages) and is deposited in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The committee will hear an overview of the program, an update on the status of the trust fund, and department recommendations for statutory changes.

Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
Bill Starks, Director, Unemployment Insurance Division, Department of Workforce Services

3:40 5. General Assistance Program

The state-funded General Assistance Program provides cash assistance to adults who, because of physical or mental impairment, are unable to work and are not eligible for other cash assistance. The maximum amount of the cash assistance is \$287 per month for an individual and \$398 per month for a household of two. The cash assistance is limited to 12 months of benefits in any 60-month period. The committee will discuss what changes, if any, are needed to this program.

Jon S. Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services
Karla Aguirre, Director, Workforce Development Division, Department of Workforce Services

4:00 6. Housing and Community Development Programs

The Housing and Community Development Division administers the Permanent Community Impact Fund, the Olene Walker Housing Fund, and eight other programs to serve local government, community organizations, and citizens. The division assists communities with the provisions of infrastructure, bonding ability, affordable housing and basic community services, and helps with community problems, including hunger, homelessness, and home heating. Most of the division's programs are overseen by a board that administers grants, loans, and investments. The committee will hear an overview of the division's activities.

Gordon D. Walker, Director, Housing and Community Development Division, Department of Workforce Services

4:20 7. Child Care Subsidy Program

The Child Care Assistance Program provides child care assistance to low income families to allow parents to work outside the home (see Utah Code Section 35A-3-201 et. seq.). A representative from the Office of Child Care will explain the program and payment of child care providers.

Casey Erickson, Deputy Director, Office of Work and Family Life, Department of Workforce Services

Jon S. Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services

4:35 8. Single Audit Management Letter Findings

The Office of the Utah State Auditor annually audits the Department of Workforce Services for both basic financial controls and for compliance with federal program requirements. In the Management Letter dated October 25, 2012, 16 findings and recommendations were made related to inadequate internal controls, eligibility and cost allocation errors, and other deficiencies for the year ending June 30, 2012 (see Report No. 12-23). The 2011 Management Letter included 13 similar findings and recommendations. The committee will examine the process to identify these issues, what the department doing to address these findings, and make recommendations to prevent these issues from recurring.

Jon S. Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services
Nathan Harrison, Director of Internal Audit, Department of Workforce Services

4:55 9. Other Committee Business/Adjourn